

#5/2550
3 27 02
45

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of
MURRAY

Continuation of

Group Art Unit: 2859

Application No. 09/366,781

Examiner: R. Alexander Smith

Filed: August 4, 1999

Title: RULE ASSEMBLY WITH INCREASED BLADE STANDOUT

* * * * *

November 15, 2001

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Consideration and allowance of independent claim 1 is hereby solicited.

Claim 1 is basically the same as claim 17 allowed in parent application Serial No. 09/366,781, except that it omits the limitation regarding the thickness of the blade. Claim 1 is submitted for allowance based upon the fact that to Applicant's knowledge, neither the height limitation nor the width limitation has by itself been suggested for use in a concavo-convex blade, much less the combination of these two dimensions together.

As established in the parent application, the prior art reference of Rutty applied in the parent application teaches away from the claimed blade height dimension of 0.25" - 0.40" when in the concavo-convex configuration. Rutty also does not teach the claimed width dimension. The thickness limitation in parent claim

09366781 11501